

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): ~~Device~~-A device for preparing a beverage from a food substance contained in a capsule, the device comprising a housing for receiving the capsule, at least one piercing and injection element having a channel for receiving a liquid under pressure, the piercing and injection element being so constructed and arranged to project into the housing and pierce a face of the capsule in at least one position of operation of the device so as to allow a liquid to be introduced into the capsule from the channel, the piercing and injection element having a distal end arranged in the form of a valve having a closure means with an end, the valve being designed to close off the channel in a first position and to open under the effect of the pressure from the liquid against an elastic element so as to free a passage as a function of the pressure and thus create a layer of liquid sprayed through the passage in a second position.

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~Device~~-The device according to Claim 1, wherein the piercing and injection element is located substantially at the centre of the capsule housing and is designed to produce a multidirectional divergent spray in the form of at least one layer of liquid.

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~Device~~-The device according to Claim 1, wherein the thin layer extends continuously around the periphery of the pointed part and sprays the substance contained in the capsule in a substantially circular manner.

Claim 4 (canceled):

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~Device~~-The device according to Claim 1, wherein the pointed end comprises an external peripheral surface lying in the extension of the external peripheral surface of the tubular body.

Claims 6-8 (canceled):

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~Devicee~~The device according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid layer has a thickness of less than or equal to 0.5 mm.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~Devicee~~A device for preparing a beverage from a food substance contained in a capsule, the device comprising a housing for receiving the capsule, at least one piercing and injection element having a channel for receiving a liquid under pressure, the piercing and injection element being designed to project into the housing and pierce a face of the capsule in at least one position of operation of the device so as to allow a liquid to be introduced into the capsule from the channel, the piercing and injection element has at least one slot that is transverse to the piercing and injection element, the slot being arranged so as to inject the liquid into the capsule in the form of at least one thin layer extending in a continuous, divergent and multidirectional manner, covering a spray surface in an arc of a circle inside the capsule, wherein the slot extends over an angular sector of between 30 and 180 degrees.

Claim 11 (canceled):

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~Devicee~~The device according to Claim 11, wherein the piercing and injection element also comprises a second transverse slot.

Claims 13-14 (canceled):

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~Method-A~~ method of wetting a substance contained in a capsule for producing a beverage having a piercing and injection element, for piercing the capsule and injecting a liquid under pressure into the capsule to wet the substance,

the piercing and injection element is arranged so as to inject the liquid into the capsule in the form of at least one thin layer extending in a continuous, divergent and multidirectional manner, covering a spray surface in an arc of a circle inside the capsule, wherein the thin layer covers a spray surface of between 30 and 360 degrees inside the capsule.

Claim 16 (canceled):

Claim 17 (currently amended): ~~Method-The method~~ according to Claim 16, wherein the thin layer covers a spray surface of between 120 and 360 degrees inside the capsule.

Claim 18 (currently amended): ~~Method-The method~~ according to Claim 15, wherein the thin layer has a thickness of less than or equal to 0.5 mm.

Claim 19 (currently amended): ~~Method-The method~~ according to Claim 15, wherein the slot is fixed.

Claim 20 (canceled):

Claim 21 (currently amended): ~~Deviee-The device~~ according to Claim 1 wherein the liquid layer has a thickness of less than or equal to 0.3 mm.

Claim 22 (currently amended): ~~Method-The method~~ according to Claim 15 wherein the layer has a thickness of less than 0.3 mm.

Claim 23 (new): A device for preparing a beverage from a food substance contained in a capsule, the device comprising a housing for receiving the capsule, at least one piercing and injection element having a channel for receiving a liquid under pressure, the piercing and injection element being so constructed and arranged to project into the housing and pierce a face of the capsule in at least one position of operation of the device so as to allow a liquid to be introduced into the capsule from the channel, the piercing and injection element having a distal end arranged in the form of a valve having a closure means with an end, the valve being designed to close off the channel in a first position and to open under the effect of the pressure from the liquid against an elastic element so as to free a passage as a function of the pressure and thus create a layer of liquid sprayed through the passage in a second position, wherein the piercing and injection element comprises a tubular body defining the channel, the tubular body comprises a proximal orifice for connection to a liquid intake and a distal orifice defining the passage with a pointed part, the distal orifice and the proximal orifice being linked by the channel, and in the closure means has a rear guide part that slides in the tubular body.

Claim 24 (new): A device for preparing a beverage from a food substance contained in a capsule, the device comprising a housing for receiving the capsule, at least one piercing and injection element having a channel for receiving a liquid under pressure, the piercing and injection element being so constructed and arranged to project into the housing and pierce a face of the capsule in at least one position of operation of the device so as to allow a liquid to be introduced into the capsule from the channel, the piercing and injection element having a distal end arranged in the form of a valve having a closure means with an end, the valve being designed to close off the channel in a first position and to open under the effect of the pressure from the liquid against an elastic element so as to free a passage as a function of the pressure and thus create a layer of liquid sprayed through the passage in a second position, wherein the piercing and injection element comprises a tubular body defining the channel, the tubular body comprises a proximal orifice for connection to a liquid intake and a distal orifice defining the passage with a pointed part, the distal orifice and the proximal orifice being linked by the channel, and in the closure means has a rear guide part that slides in the tubular body, and wherein the pointed end comprises an external peripheral surface lying in the extension of the external peripheral surface of the tubular body, and wherein the closure means comprises, behind a pointed end, a shoulder surface and the rear guide part comprises openings allowing a liquid to flow from the proximal orifice to the shoulder surface and through the passage in the second position.

Claim 25 (new): The device according to Claim 24, wherein the shoulder surface of the closure means is held against an annular surface of the tubular body by the elastic element in the absence of pressure from the liquid, the channel then being sealed closed.

Claim 26 (new): The device according to Claim 24, wherein the elastic element comprises a helical spring lying in the channel and in that the spring is fastened to the rear guide part of the closure means by a first end and to a hook element integral with the tubular body by a second end.

Claim 27 (new): A device for preparing a beverage from a food substance contained in a capsule, the device comprising a housing for receiving the capsule, at least one piercing and injection element having a channel for receiving a liquid under pressure, the piercing and injection element being designed to project into the housing and pierce a face of the capsule in at least one position of operation of the device so as to allow a liquid to be introduced into the capsule from the channel, the piercing and injection element has at least one slot that is transverse to the piercing and injection element, the slot being arranged so as to inject the liquid into the capsule in the form of at least one thin layer extending in a continuous, divergent and multidirectional manner, covering a spray surface in an arc of a circle inside the capsule, wherein the slot extends over an angular sector of between 30 and 180 degrees and wherein the piercing and injection element also comprises a second transverse slot that is located at a different level to the first slot along the piercing and injection element.

Claim 28 (new): The device according to Claim 27, wherein the second slot covers an angular sector that is complementary to that of the first slot so that together they cover a sector of 360 degrees.

Claim 29 (new): A method of wetting a substance contained in a capsule for producing a beverage having a piercing and injection element, for piercing the capsule and injecting a liquid under pressure into the capsule to wet the substance,

the piercing and injection element is arranged so as to inject the liquid into the capsule in the form of at least one thin layer extending in a continuous, divergent and multidirectional manner, covering a spray surface in an arc of a circle inside the capsule, wherein the slot is opened only in response to the injection of fluid under pressure into the injection and piercing element.